

The widespread misuse of anti-microbial drugs has accelerated the emergence of new drug-resistant microorganisms. In addition, scientists are identifying, with remarkable frequency, a growing number of new infectious diseases along with microorganisms that cause previously unexplained chronic diseases.

In response to the threat of emerging infectious diseases, CDC developed a plan designed to safeguard our Nation's health. Entitled "Addressing Emerging Infectious Disease Threats: A Prevention Strategy for the United States", 1994, the plan was developed in cooperation with local and State public health officials, various Federal agencies, medical and public health professional associations, infectious disease experts from academia and clinical practice, and international and public service organization. The plan lays down CDC's domestic and international strategy for addressing emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats. The plan has four goals:

First, surveillance and response. The first goal is to improve the detection, investigation, and monitoring of emerging pathogens, the diseases they cause, and the factors influencing their emergence. Essential to this goal is an adequate laboratory capacity that assures accurate diagnosis of infectious diseases.

Second, research. The second goal is to integrate laboratory science with surveillance to optimize public health practice. CDC, in partnership with public agencies, universities, and private industry, will support research programs to address a number of pressing issues. They include: development and application of modern and rapid laboratory techniques for identification of new pathogens and drug-resistant organisms; determination of how behavioral factors influence emerging infections; and evaluation of the economic benefit of prevention and control strategies.

Third, prevention and control. The third goal is to enhance communication of public health information about emerging diseases. This would ensure prompt implementation of prevention strategies.

Fourth, infrastructure. The fourth goal is to strengthen infrastructure at local, State, and Federal public health levels. This includes plans for addressing the diminished capacity of health agencies to respond to infectious diseases. Critical losses in personnel over the past years have resulted in dangerous limitations in laboratory expertise. To respond to these losses, CDC has placed a top priority on building and maintaining expertise in rare or unusual diseases through the establishment of appropriate training programs for young health professionals.

CDC's initial efforts have focused resources on improving the capacity of the United States to address emerging infectious diseases through collaborations among State and local health de-

partments and academic institutions. Thus far, CDC has provided funds through cooperative agreements to 14 States and two large local health departments to enhance their ability to monitor and respond to infectious diseases, including foodborne disease, drug-resistant infections, and a variety of other infectious disease public health programs. Health departments have used these funds to improve State health laboratories, build epidemiologic capacity to investigate outbreaks, and develop electronic technology for disease reporting and tracking.

CDC has also begun developing a national network of emerging infections programs. This network will conduct special surveillance projects and develop and improve surveillance methods. Emerging infections programs [EIP] address a variety of infectious disease problems, including food- and water-borne disease caused by *E. coli* and *cytospodium*, tickborne diseases such as Lyme disease, and the newly recognized ehrlichiosis, and antibiotic resistance.

Through cooperative agreements with State health departments and their collaborators in local health departments and academic institutions, CDC has provided funds to establish the first four such programs in health departments in California, Connecticut, Minnesota, and Oregon; a fifth EIP will be initiated this year. As resources permit, CDC will institute three additional EIPs in fiscal year 1997 in other State health departments.

With new microbe threats confronting us daily, CDC had developed a public health microbiology fellowship program in partnership with the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors. CDC has also reinstituted an extramural research program that is focusing initially on tickborne disease and antibiotic resistance.

Although extensive work to address emerging infections has begun, substantial further effort is needed to strengthen defenses against potential disasters caused by infectious microorganisms. Long-term cooperation and partnerships are needed with clinicians, microbiologists, public agencies, universities, private industry, and communities. It is indeed critical that we all work together to ensure rapid, comprehensive responses to the microbial risks challenging the health of the world's population. I commend CDC on their 50th anniversary and on their outstanding effort to control and eliminate emerging infectious diseases.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/GUNS BILL

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this morning we had a discussion on the floor about legislation I am sponsoring to prohibit people convicted of domestic violence from owning guns.

My bill stands for the simple proposition that wife beaters and child abus-

ers should not have guns. It says: Beat your wife, lose your gun. Abuse your child, lose your gun. It's that simple. And it's really little more than common sense.

Mr. President, for many months, I had tried to include my proposal as part of the stalking bill. And, finally, on July 25, after agreeing to several changes at the request of my Republican colleagues, my legislation passed the Senate by voice vote.

Mr. President, the compromise we worked out was supported by the most ardent progun Members of this body. And we had an understanding that the leadership on both sides of the aisle would work to get the legislation passed promptly in the House.

Now we have just learned that the stalking bill has been inserted into the conference report on the DOD authorization bill—but without my amendment to keep guns away from wife beaters.

Mr. President, given the understanding that we had with the leadership, this news came as something as a shock to me.

Earlier this morning, there was a suggestion that somehow I was not respecting an agreement we had on this matter. And now this.

Mr. President, this is not how we should be doing business in this body.

Mr. President, I continue to be amazed at just how far the NRA and their supporters are willing to go to let wife beaters and child abusers get guns.

And I think the American people would share my outrage at this. Every year, thousands of women and children die at the hands of family members. And 65 percent of the time, these murderers use a gun.

There is no reason why wife beaters and child abusers should have guns. Only the most progun extremists could possibly disagree with that. Unfortunately, these same extremists have incredible power here in the Congress.

Mr. President, I want to make clear to my colleagues that I am not going to let this issue die. The lives of thousands of women and children are at stake. And I'm going to continue this battle for as long as it takes.

Members of Congress on both sides of Capitol Hill need to be held accountable on this. The public has got to know what's going on here.

Mr. President, I'm convinced that the overwhelming majority of Americans would agree.

Wife beaters should not have guns. Child abusers should not have guns.●

SALUTE TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST ATHLETE

• Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute today to an Idahoan who has overcome adversity to become an Olympic champion.

Dan O'Brien of Moscow last night won the Olympic decathlon gold medal and set an Olympic record with a score of 8,824 points, the sixth best mark

ever. Success is not new to Dan, but neither is bitter disappointment. He has been very successful on the national and even the world level, but his dream, an Olympic gold medal, has eluded him.

By now most sports fans around the world have heard the story of how, 4 years ago, Dan was one of the favorites for the Barcelona games and how he failed to qualify by not clearing any height in the pole vault at the Olympic trials in New Orleans.

Since that crushing result, Dan has shown the determination, hard work and drive that embodies the American spirit. He trained like he had never trained before. He won the world championships three times since the 1992 trials and set the world decathlon record with a score of 8,891 points just weeks after the Barcelona games.

At the Olympics in Atlanta, Dan seized his opportunity. He started out well, and claimed the lead after the first day of the 10-event competition. The eighth event was his old nemesis, the pole vault. Learning the lessons of 4 years ago, Dan cleared a cautious 14 feet, 9 inches. Gaining in confidence, he vaulted past the height he missed at the 1992 trials, and then wound up clearing 16 feet, 4¾ inches to score 910 points in the event.

The ninth event pretty much clinched the gold medal. In his final javelin throw, O'Brien recorded his only personal best of the competition, with a toss of 219 feet, 6 inches. That gave Dan a 209-point lead heading into the final event, the 1,500 meters.

Dan has never liked this race, and although he didn't need to run a particularly fast race, he did pick up around the final turn and sprint to the finish line. He could then claim redemption for 1992's performance.

Immediately after finishing, Dan broke down in tears. I am sure they were tears of joy and triumph. He had finally answered all his critics and those who doubted him. He had proven to himself and the world that his determination and commitment to be the best would prevail.

Mr. President, to this fine young man, who I am proud to say graduated from the University of Idaho and lives and trains in Moscow, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. I know the people of Idaho join me in saying "Well done, Dan" to the Olympic gold medal champion in the decathlon, the world's greatest athlete, Dan O'Brien.●

RETIREMENT OF MR. ROBERT DAVID YOUNG, OF SAGINAW, MI

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to salute Robert David Young on his retirement from the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association.

I have appreciated Bob's long service as the Executive Vice-President for the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers. He has been an excellent source of information regarding agriculture policy,

and particularly the sugar program. In his capacity with the association, he has effectively represented not only growers but all the communities of the Thumb and Bay areas of Michigan. And, in fact, he did that officially as a formidable State Senator of the 35th District for many years. Because of his skill and experience, Bob's counsel and expertise have helped me and the people he has served.

We have worked together for many years, through flood and drought, and through several Farm Bills and sometimes excessive USDA red tape. Our different party affiliations have not intruded on a joint desire to produce good, pragmatic agriculture policy that would benefit Michigan.

I will be sad to see Bob retire. However, I salute his accomplishments and recognize that he has earned some time off. The people of Michigan owe him a debt of gratitude.●

THE SENATE'S WORLD WIDE WEB SITE ON THE INTERNET

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, earlier this week a Washington Post editorial entitled "Wiring Congress" implied that the Senate has not embraced the idea of providing legislative information in electronic format. I am here today to set the record straight.

This past fall, in one of my first initiatives as chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Senator FORD and I announced the availability of the Senate's World Wide Web site on the Internet. This site, which is continuously updated with information about the Senate, is also the public's gateway to legislative information. Today, using the Senate Web site and linking through the Government Printing Office, the American public have electronic access to bills, resolutions, filed committee reports, and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In addition, we are working hard to develop a centralized system that will allow committee chairmen to also post committee hearings and prints on the Government Printing Office access system.

The Rules Committee has also been holding a series of hearings to address the issues concerning public access to Government information in the 21st century. I am well aware of how important it is that in our quest to provide information in electronic format, we do not lose sight of our responsibility to maintain a public record and to assure access to Government information for those who do not have access to the information highway.

The Rules Committee is taking an aggressive approach toward ensuring the Senate—and the American public—have timely and complete access to all legislative information.●

MODIFICATION OF PENSION NONDISCRIMINATION RULES

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of legis-

lation to modify the application of pension nondiscrimination rules to governmental pension plans. This legislation will provide relief to State and local governments from unnecessary and overly burdensome Federal regulations.

Pension nondiscrimination laws enacted by the Federal Government ensure that workers at all levels of employment are given access to the benefits of tax-exempt pension plans. As employers, State and local governments employ a wide range of workers, from judges to firefighters to teachers. Each occupation requires that its unique circumstances be considered when determining pension benefits. Laws that were created by the Federal Government do not adequately address the needs of the diverse work force of State and local governments.

Public pension plans are negotiated by popularly elected governments and subject to public scrutiny. They do not require a high degree of Federal review. The process of enacting these plans promotes fair benefits for governmental employees. Public pension plans have been given temporary exemption from nondiscrimination laws for almost 20 years, and the result is that full-time public employees enjoy almost twice the pension coverage rate of their counterparts in the private sector. It is time to make this temporary exemption permanent.

This bill enjoys a wide range of support from State and local governments, as well as public employee representatives. I urge my colleagues to join Senator HATCH and myself, along with a bipartisan group of Senators, to ease the burden of Federal regulation on State and local governments. I look forward to this bill's consideration in committee and on the Senate floor.●

TRIBUTE TO CAMP NATARSWI, BAXTER STATE PARK, ME

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the 60th anniversary of Camp Natarzwi in Baxter State Park, ME.

In August, Girl Scouts from Maine and across the United States will reunite to mark this occasion, exemplifying the strong bond of friendship that young women gain through their Girl Scout experiences. Such relationships are vital for young women and foster an appreciation for helping others whether it be in the community, at school, or at home. It is clear that these women have cherished the spirit of the Girl Scout tradition as they now gather 60 years later to renew their friendships.

Before this land in Baxter State Park became Camp Natarzwi in 1936, it was used to house Civilian Conservation Corps workers who were building a road from Togue Pond to Roaring Brook. The property was leased from Great Northern Paper until 1975 when the paper company designated ownership to the Girl Scouts. Conducive to